

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video server for distributing a digitized video content, comprising:

means for determining whether or not a video content requested from a terminal is stored in said video server;

means for transmitting a transmission request to another video server for transmitting said video content in accordance with the HTTP protocol when the video content requested by the terminal is not stored in said video server; and

means for receiving the video content transmitted from the other video server in accordance with the HTTP protocol, and transmitting the video content to said terminal in accordance with IP multicast.

2. A video server according to claim 1, wherein:

said transmitting means further includes means for transmitting the video content received from the other video server to said terminal in accordance with the HTTP protocol.

3. A video server according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for storing and managing the video content received from the other video server.

4. A video server according to claim 1, wherein:

said transmitting means includes a plurality of buffers, buffer selecting means, and a reference time generator;

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said buffer selecting means selects, from among said plurality of buffers, image information which has not been transmitted and has a time stamp equal to or smaller than a reference time generated by said reference time generator, and indicates the selected image information to said transmitting means.

said means for transmitting a video content to the terminal in accordance with the HTTP protocol establishes a plurality of logical transmission paths between said terminal and said video server, and utilizes said plurality of logical transmission paths for transmitting image information.

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        receiving an audience request from a
terminal;

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transmitting said video program to the terminal when the requested video program is stored in said video server; and

accessing to another video server when the requested video program is not stored in said video

7. A video distribution method according to claim 6, wherein:

8. A program for distributing a video in a video server, said program including codes for executing the steps of:

determining whether or not a requested video program is stored in said video server;

accessing to another video server when the requested video program is not stored in said video server to request the other video server to transmit the video program in accordance with the HTTP protocol, and transmitting the received video program to the terminal.

9. A method of transferring image information in an asynchronous communication network, comprising the steps of:

comparing, on the reception side, a time

stamp of the received image information with a time stamp stored in said time stamp memory to reproduce only image information having a time stamp more recent than the stored time stamp.